

wishes to all these great athletes on their journey in competing in the 2012 London Olympics.

I extend my best wishes for all around success in the upcoming London 2012 Olympics as their hard work, dedication, and perseverance is put to the test!

Go U.S.A.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PINCHOT INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary next year. The Pinchot Institute carries on the legacy of Connecticut native son Gifford Pinchot, whose unique and reasoned approach to conservation endures as we face a new era of environmental challenges.

Born in Simsbury, Pinchot grew up inspired by childhood summers spent enjoying his hometown's natural beauty. Committed to forestry and preservation from an early age, Pinchot went on to found the Forestry School, the first of its kind, at Yale, his alma mater. He helped to establish the United States Forest Service, serving as its first Chief in 1905. Pinchot recognized the need to protect our natural heritage at a time of development unprecedented in our nation's history. Throughout his long career in public service, he was instrumental in raising the profile of the conservation movement to the national stage.

Pinchot's philosophy of "practical idealism" lives on in practice at Yale, at the Forest Service, and at the Pinchot Institute. Dedicated by President Kennedy in 1963, the Pinchot Institute works to balance the sustainable use of our natural resources with a commitment to preservation for future generations. The Pinchot Institute collaborates with organizations around the country and the world to develop non-partisan, innovative, and well-researched solutions to conservation problems. The Institute recognizes the role that sustainable forests can play in the health of our nation's communities, water resources, and wildlife.

The need for conservation also resonates with me on a personal level. I began my career in public service with a call to action against the destruction of wetlands in Southington, and I remain committed to the principles of environmental stewardship. Our public lands and fragile resources are preserved and maintained for more Americans than ever before due to the tireless efforts of organizations like the Pinchot Institute.

In recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an organization at the forefront of its field.

HONORING THE COURAGE AND SELFLESS SERVICE OF CORPORAL DANIEL PALMER OF MILTON, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound gratitude and sincere respect that I rise to pay tribute to the courage and selfless service of Marine Corporal Daniel Palmer of Milton, Florida. In 2010, then Lance Corporal Palmer was severely wounded on patrol in Afghanistan, while assigned to Third Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment, Lima Company. After spending the last year in rehabilitation at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, I am happy to say that on July 27, Northwest Florida will finally be able to welcome home their native son and an American hero.

Cpl Palmer is a 2004 graduate of Central High School in Allentown, Florida. While working at his family's masonry business in 2008 at the age of 22, he surprised his parents, Joey and Flora Jean Palmer, with his decision to join the U.S. Marine Corps. Cpl Palmer chose the Marine Corps because of its reputation for toughness and pride. Cpl Palmer's older brother, Scott, says Daniel has always been energetic and competitive and was proud of his decision to join the Marine Corps from day one.

On March 20, 2010, LCpl Palmer was leading a team of Marines on patrol when he stepped on a concealed improvised explosive device. Although he was severely wounded by the blast and shrapnel from the bomb, his first concern was the safety of his fellow Marines. When one of the Marines on his team started to run toward LCpl Palmer after the blast, LCpl Palmer shouted orders to his team to take cover rather than rushing out into the open and risk setting off another bomb or exposing themselves to small arms fire. LCpl Palmer's toughness and concern for others didn't stop there. His first words to his family after he was injured were, "[D]on't worry about me. I don't want you to feel sorry for me or anything. I did what I did serving my country."

He spent the next two years convalescing at military hospitals, all the while comforted by the tender devotion of his loving wife, Becky, at his side. Although Cpl Palmer is thousands of miles away from Afghanistan, his thoughts are still with his fellow Marines who are in harm's way. "Keep praying for all the boys who are still over there," he will tell you, "there's still a bunch of people over there risking their lives every day."

It has been said that the story of America's quest for freedom is inscribed on our history in the blood of our patriots. Today, the blood shed by America's patriots in defense of freedom is also inscribing the histories of nations like Afghanistan. Cpl Palmer's service in the military of our great country bears testament to his belief in the fundamental truth that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with the unalienable right to liberty. Cpl Palmer sacrificed a great deal attempting to secure for the Afghan people the blessings of freedom. We must never forget his contribution toward that honorable end.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I stand here today to honor Cpl Daniel Palmer and all of the heroes serving our great nation around the world. My wife, Vicki, joins me in offering our profound thanks to Cpl Palmer and his family and our prayers for his speedy recovery. May God continue to bless him, his family and the United States Armed Forces. l66F

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PLAST, THE UKRAINIAN SCOUTING ORGANIZATION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Plast, the Ukrainian Scouting Organization.

Plast was founded in 1911 by Dr. Oleksandr Tysovsky, and it is based on the principles of scouting started by Lord Baden Powell in Great Britain.

As a consequence of the country's absence of national independence through most of the 20th Century, Plast was forced to go underground when the occupying Soviet Union declared the organization illegal and banned its activities.

However, following World War II, when many Ukrainians emigrated to various countries of the Free World, including the United States, the plastuny (members of Plast) among the émigrés formed Plast organizations in the countries of their settlement. This included incorporating "Plast, Inc." in 1950 in the state of Michigan.

Additionally, after the Declaration of Independence of Ukraine in 1991, Plast was reconstituted in Ukraine with the help of plastuny from the United States and other Free World countries.

Today, Plast is an international organization of Ukrainian youth which fosters personal development, leadership and teamwork, as well as a love of Ukrainian culture and history while also raising youth to be conscientious, responsible and valuable citizens of their communities at the local, national, and international level. The former President of Ukraine, Victor Yushchenko, is an honorary plastun, and Liubomyr Cardinal Husar, a U.S. citizen and now Patriarch-emeritus of the Ukrainian Eastern Rite Catholic Church based in Ukraine, is one of many distinguished plastuns.

Currently, Plast has 23 branches coast to coast in the United States, and Plast will be celebrating its Centennial with a Jamboree in Ukraine, August 10th to 24th, with the official opening of the Jamboree Celebration on August 19th in the city of L'viv.

As such, we should recognize August 19, 2012 as the Centennial Day of Plast, commend the Ukrainian Scouting Organization for its tremendous contributions, and celebrate the Centennial of Plast.